

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00322 131734Z

60
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 131648Z SEP 76
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1422
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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UNCLAS BELFAST 322

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: IRISH-AMERICAN ORGANIZATION PROTESTS DISCRIMINATION

1. IRISH NEWS, A MRONING NEWSPAPER AIMED TO MINORITY COMMUNITY READSHIP, CARRIED ARTICLE SEPTEMBER 13 REPORTING NATIONAL COUNCIL OF IRISH AMERICANS HAS PROTESTED TO USG ABOUT MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR CONTRACT AWARDED BY COMMAND AIRWAYS (POUGHKEEPSIE) TO SHORT BROTHERS AND HARLAND OF BELFAST. REPORT STATED COUNCIL ACCUSED SHORTS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CATHOLICS AND PERSONS ENTERTAINING IRISH REPUBLICAN POLITICAL VIEWS. SPOKESMAN FOR COUNCIL APPARENTLY ATTORNEY JAMES C. HEANEY OF BUFFALO. HE CITED SOURCES AS INDICATING FEWER THAN ONE PER CENT OF SHORTS EMPLOYEES WERE CATHOLICS.

2. LEADING POLITICAN FROM MINORITY COMMUNITY (HIMSELF A AN AGNOSTIC) WHO IS ALSO A LABOR CONSULTANT IN CONVERSATION WITH REPORTING OFFICER SEPT 13 SCOFFED AT ACCUSATION. HE ESTIMATED ONLY BETWEEN 5 AND 10 PER CENT OF SHORT BROTHERS WORK FORCE WAS CATHOLIC BUT ASCRIBED THIS TO CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS RATHER THAN AS RESULT DISCRIMINATION. HE POINTED OUT SHORT BROTHERS LOCATED IN EAST BELFAST WHERE THERE

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TRADITION OF EMPLOYMENT IN "HEAVY-ENGINEERING". FEW CATHOLICS,

HE SAID, HAD EVER BEEN EMPLOYED IN THIS INDUSTRY IN CONTRAST
WITH TEXTILES AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES. HE CONCLUDED BY
SAYING WORK FORCE IN SHORT BROTHERS AND HARLAND COMPLETELY
UNIONIZED AND UNIONS WOULD NOT PERMIT DISCRIMINATION.

SPICER

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NNN

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Disposition Event:
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